

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (CRIMINAL) NO.159 OF 2026

DARSHAN

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF KARNATAKA

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

1. Our order dated 04.05.2026 reads thus:-

"1. Heard the learned Senior counsel appearing for the petitioner.

2. Issue notice, returnable on 15th May, 2026.

3. The Registry is directed to call for a Report from the 56th Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-57), Bengaluru, as regards the status of Sessions Case No. 1319 of 2024.

4. We would like to know from the trial court how many witnesses have been examined so far over a period of time and how many more witnesses the State proposes to examine. We would also like to have a fair idea how much more time the trial court is likely to take before the trial is concluded. We would also like to know from the State whether the basic amenities which an under-trial prisoner is otherwise entitled to is being provided to the petitioner or not.

5. The Registry shall see to it that the Report is received within a period of one week from today. One set of the entire paper book shall be furnished to the Standing Counsel appearing for the State at the earliest."

2. In pursuance of our order, referred to above, we have received a Report from the 56th Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-57), Bengaluru. The State has also filed a Report indicating the progress of trial and examination of witnesses before the Trial Court.
3. It appears from the Report that charge came to be framed on 03.11.2025. In last seven months, the prosecution has been able to examine 10 witnesses.
4. The Report further indicates that the prosecution proposes to examine around 60 witnesses on priority basis, who according to the State are vital to indicate the role played by the accused persons.
5. As such in the charge-sheet, 272 witnesses have been shown. The report further indicates that approximately the State may examine 150 witnesses in all.
6. We are of the view that the progress insofar as trial is concerned is very slow. It may be true that the defence counsel may be taking a long time to complete the cross examination of the witnesses. But if the trial is proceeding at this pace then it is going to take a long time even before the 60 important witnesses are examined.

7. In such circumstances, it is now for the Trial Court to see that the witnesses are examined on regular basis and the trial is not adjourned on any flimsy ground here or there.
8. If need be, the Trial Court may proceed to examine the witnesses on day-to-day basis.
9. We would like to observe the progress of the trial for a further period of one year. At the end of one year from today, if there is no substantial progress in the trial then we may look into the matter accordingly.
10. We want the defence side also to cooperate with the Trial Court and see to it that the witnesses are examined on regular basis as fast as possible.
11. There is one another issue which has been raised in this petition and this is with respect to providing the basic amenities in the prison to the petitioner.
12. As regards providing basic amenities, there is an exhaustive affidavit filed duly affirmed by the Chief Superintendent of Prison, Central Prison Bengaluru.
13. In the affidavit, the following has been stated:

"3. It is submitted that the said under-trial prisoner and his co-accused prisoners have been confined in Central Prison, Bengaluru, New Building, Block-1, Barrack No. 1 since their admission till today, to ensure their safety and security.

4. It is submitted that, for the day shift duty, one Assistant Jailor and one Warder are deputed and for the night shift duty, two Head Warders are deputed, to guard the corridor in front of his barrack. Strict, safety and security measures have been implemented to prevent other inmates from entering the corridor and to avoid disturbances or security lapses. CCTV cameras have been installed in the corridor in front of his barrack, to ensure that no unwanted intrusion occurs by other inmates. These cameras are closely monitored in the CCTV Command Centre.

5. It is submitted that, the barrack in which they are housed is well-equipped with all basic infrastructure and facilities, including adequate sunlight and ventilation. The windows and doors are fitted with mosquito mesh. The room is spacious and equipped with both Indian and Western toilet facilities, along with ceiling fans.

6. It is submitted that, Carpets, Blankets, Bed Sheets, Stainless Steel - Plate, Cup, Bowl and Glass have been issued to the said prisoner, as to any other inmates. Further, in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble 56th Addl. City Civil & Sessions Court, Bengaluru (CCH-57), Order dated 19.11.2025, the said prisoner has also been provided with chadar / kambli.

7. It is submitted that, in accordance with the Karnataka Prisons & Correctional Services Manual - 2021, Provision No. 578 (ii)(b), an interview facility is provided to the said prisoner, from the date of his admission to this prison on 14.08.2025 till 05.05.2026.

8. It is submitted that, in accordance with the Karnataka Prisons & Correctional Services Manual - 2021, Provision No. 604 - Prison Call System Facility (Telephone facility), the said prisoner is provided with the facility from the date of his admission to this prison on 14.08.2025 till 05.05.2026.

9. It is submitted that, from 14.08.2025 to 05.05.2026, the petitioner had, in total availed 70 interviews with his family and friends and during this period the petitioner had, in total availed 73 phone calls. It is submitted that, at the time of availing interview, 6 persons (in case of blood relatives) and 5 persons (in other cases) are permitted to meet the inmates in person.

10. It is submitted that the petitioner has also been permitted to meet his Advocates for legal consultation regularly. It is submitted that, there is no restriction on the number of times, Advocates are permitted to meet the inmates. From 20.08.2025, the petitioner herein has met his Advocates 28 times.

11. It is submitted that, at the time of admission, the said prisoner underwent health screening in accordance with the NHRC guidelines. Further, the said prisoner has also been provided with medical assistance, as and when required.

12. It is submitted that, in accordance with the Physiotherapist's advice, a chair has been provided to the said prisoner which is being used by the petitioner.

13. It is submitted that, in accordance with the advice of the CFTRI, Mysuru; the Director, University of Agricultural Sciences, Nutrition Department; and the Medical Superintendent, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru, the State Government of Karnataka has issued revised diet charts vide Order No: HD 126 PRA 2014, dated 13.10.2014, and Order No: HD 88 PRA 2025, dated 13.05.2025.

14. It is submitted that the diet also provides various types of breakfast from Monday to Sunday for all prisoners. Non-vegetarian meals are provided to non-vegetarian prisoners, i.e., mutton on the first, third and fifth Fridays of the month and chicken on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Vegetarian prisoners are provided with sweets as per the existing diet chart. All prisoners are provided with a boiled egg (for non-vegetarian prisoners) and a banana (for vegetarian prisoners) once a week on every Tuesday. Special food on special days (festivals) is also provided as per the prescribed scale.

15. It is submitted that as per the recommendation of the Medical Officer, Central Prison, Hospital, Bengaluru dated: 14.10.2025 extra diet like eggs, bread and milk are also being provided to the said prisoner.

16. It is submitted that during interviews (Mulakath), fresh fruits, dry fruits, bakery and confectionery items, clothing and bedding (on request) from private sources are also being

provided in accordance with Circular No. ADM-2/CR-20/2026 dated 23.01.2026.

17. It is submitted that the Prison has a Canteen, Bakery and Hopcoms facility for the prisoners. Necessaries and essential items, baked products, fruits, etc., from these are even taken to the said prisoner's corridor and provided as per rules.

18. It is submitted that in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble 56th Addl. City Civil & Sessions Court, Bengaluru (CCH-57), Order dated 04.12.2025, the said prisoner has also been provided with a TV facility.

19. It is submitted that for recreational purposes, facilities such as carom, daily newspapers, monthly magazines and books are also being provided to the said prisoners.

20. It is submitted that for personal hygiene and cleanliness, bath soap, laundry soap, coconut oil, toothpaste, phenyl and bleaching powder are provided to the said prisoners, as to any other prisoners.

21. It is submitted that the said prisoner is allowed to walk in the sunlight in the corridor area. The said prisoner is also allowed to practice Yoga in the morning from 07.30 AM to 08.30 AM. Again, he is allowed to walk in the corridor near the barrack from 10.00 AM to 01.00 PM and in the evening from 03.00 PM to 06.00 PM.

22. It is submitted that all facilities, including basic amenities, are being provided to the said prisoner in accordance with the Karnataka Prisons Rules 1974, the Karnataka Prisons & Correctional Services Manual - 2021 and the orders passed by the Hon'ble Trial Court.

14. All that we want to say is that the petitioner shall be provided with all basic amenities which any other under-trial prisoner is entitled to in accordance with the Jail Manual.

15. If there is no substantial progress in the trial in next one year, it shall be open for the petitioner to once again pray for bail before the Trial Court.
16. We are further informed that the Presiding Officer of the Trial Court is holding an additional charge because the regular court, i.e., Court No. 57, is vacant. The High Court shall look into this issue on its administrative side at the earliest.
17. We would like to observe in the last that State should make all endeavours to see that at least the 60 important witnesses according to them are examined in this period of one year from today.
18. With the aforesaid, the Writ Petition stands disposed of.
19. Pending application(s), if any, stand disposed of.

.....J.
[J.B.PARDIWALA]

.....J.
[VIJAY BISHNOI]

New Delhi
15th May, 2026.

ITEM NO.3

COURT NO.7

SECTION X

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition (Criminal) No.159/2026

DARSHAN

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF KARNATAKA

Respondent(s)

FOR ADMISSION

IA No. 129718/2026 - INTERIM BAIL

Date : 15-05-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIJAY BISHNOI

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Ranjeeta Rohatgi, AOR
Mr. Jackie Minish S, Adv.
Mr. Sunil Kumar S., Adv.
Mr. Lakshmikanth G., Adv.
Mr. Yuvraj Kashyap, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. D.L.chidanand, Adv.
Mr. Sanchit Garga, AOR
Mr. Sachin C, Adv.
Mr. Kunal Rana, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Jaiswal, Adv.
Ms. Diksha Arora, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. The Writ Petition is disposed of in terms of the signed order.

2. Pending application(s), if any, stand disposed of.

(CHANDRESH)

ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(POOJA SHARMA)

COURT MASTER (NSH)

(Signed order is placed on the file)